

OIL

Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 43.67

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

ROE V. WADE



Abortion opponents attend a rally on the National Mall in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, before marching to the Supreme Court to mark the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade march for Life.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

DOWN AND OUT



Venus Williams of the United States reacts as she plays Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain during their women's singles match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009.

See **Sports Today**

WildAruba insists on having an Authority to manage Environmental Affairs.



ORANJESTAD – In Arikok National Park, the executive commission of WildAruba handed over the final report of the WildAruba congress to Mr. Candelario (Booshi) Wever Ph.D. minister of health, environment and administration and international affairs and Mr. Ramon Lee, minister of labor, culture and sports. The report consisted of recommendations with ample backing for the improvement of the current management of the Aruban environment. Besides opening a managerial authority on environment, a marine life park, implementing a time-frame on construction of for example hotels are some of the points high on the list.

Continued on Next Page

Contributing to the foundation

AAA N.V. makes Awg. 10.000,- donation to Red Cross



ORANJESTAD –Aruba has many foundations that work on a voluntary basis and without structural funding for their works. Red Cross Aruba is one of these foundations.

As the Red Cross and all its volunteers are very important for the airport the managing Director of AAA N.V., Mr. Peter Steinmetz, during its relations party proudly handed a check of Awg. 10.000,- to the Red Cross. Mr. Steinmetz expressed that AAA N.V. values the great job and cooperation that the Red Cross team gives to the community in general and the airport in particular.

Continued on Page 3



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**WILDARUBA***Continued from Front Page*

From the hand of the president of the commission, Mr. Pieter Barendsen, both ministers also received a letter, petitioning a short-term commission to establish a department to manage environmental affairs. Aruba is small, very populated and economic developments are

many. If Aruba wants to remain as a touristic destination and does not want to lose their appeal to international visitors, a good environmental management should be instituted. In 2007, environmentalists came together and organized a conference to give a healthy and positive push to our environmental needs and management. Key points of this

conference were: Presentation on the knowledge and available information on the current situation.

Establishing a vision of management of our environment on a long term basis, and present recommendations that could be applied on a short term basis.

This all came to fruition in Wild Aruba 2008, "First National Congress for the Preservation of Aruban Wildlife". The conference consisted of two parts:

A two day symposium, with opening acts by Minister Lee of Labor, Culture & Sports. A wide selection of national and international speakers presented their work. The symposium was open to all who were interested.

A three day workshop with opening acts by Minister Wever of Health, Environment, Administration and International Affairs. Guests, representatives of various organizations in our community worked together in groups, to bring forth their ideas and develop recommendations. The workshop was lead by the "International Union for the Conservation of Nature" (IUCN) and "Conservation Breeding Specialist Group" (CBSG). And at the same time IUCN/CBSG was responsible for the final report, that was presented to the concerning ministers.

WildAruba has backing of several different "Stakeholders", like the Arikok National Park, Aquarium & Zoo Association (AZA), Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), New Jersey College, StimAruba, TurtugAruba, Arubans for nature and park foundation (FANAPA), Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), Veterinary Service, Directie Landbouw, Veeteelt, Visserij



en Markthallen (DLVVM), SERLIMAR y Inspection of Public Health and Environment (ISMA).

To establish a wide platform on which to develop ideas, many different organizations participated in the workshop. The final report does not only concern the government's involvement in the preservation of our Environment, but also activities that would protect our environment outside what the

government is already doing, like Aruba 2025.

"Aruba, were the people appreciate and respect the flora and fauna and environment of the island and actively protect nature and its evolutionary process in healthy habitats, equally for the ecosystem and marine life, striving to live in balance with social advancement, nature conservation and cultural heritage." □



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AAA N.V. makes Awg. 10.000,- donation to Red Cross



Continued from Front Page

Mr. Greg Peterson, president of the Red Cross Aruba gratefully accepted the check from Mr. Steinmetz and thanked AAAN.V. for its annual support. As token of

appreciation he gave Mr. Steinmetz a calendar with pictures of local birds that is used by the Red Cross for fund raising purposes. He furthermore referred to the Red Cross photo exposition at the airport at gates

3 and 4, also for fundraising purposes.

The pictures illustrate the moment when Mr. Steinmetz handed the check over to Mr. Greg Peterson of the Red Cross. □

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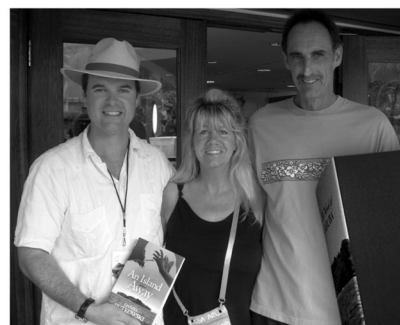
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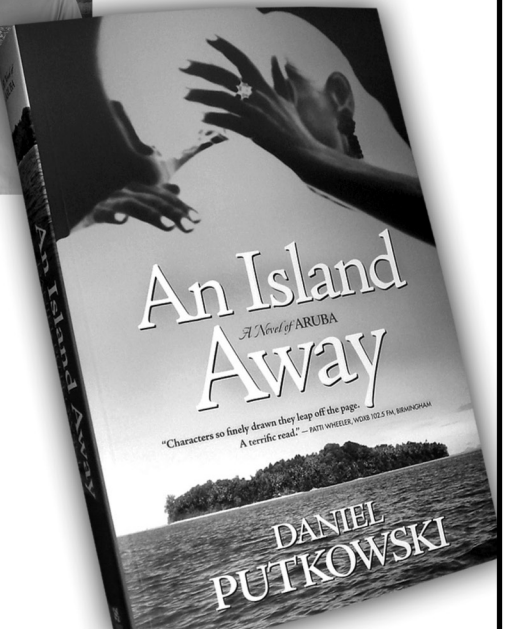
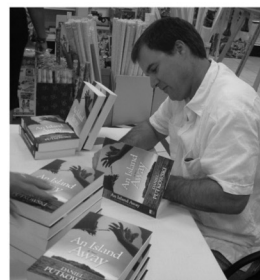
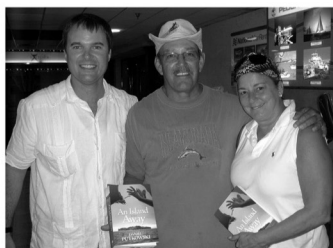
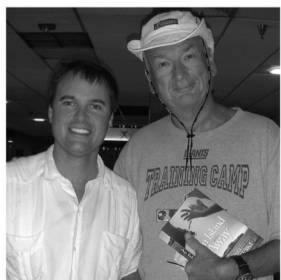
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Sunset Salute Happy Hour with Live Entertainment
Daily 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Bar: 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Best Birthday Wishes

It's that time of year again for our friend Jim Karthan, once again celebrating his B-day in Aruba among family and friends. Jim, many many more years to

come and lots of abrasos and kisses from your Aruban friends Yolanda, Ruben, Karolina, Mirtha, Dito, Humphrey and the whole bunch of your extended family Croes and de Haset. Also of



course from your beloved wife Christy, your families Frieda and Dimitri and all your Greek friends you made here on the island during your 14 visits to our dushi Aruba.

A special warm Pabien from

our Mater Familias Avelina, better known as Machi who loves you dearly.

We hope to have you back for at least another 14 years. You make friendship real. ☐

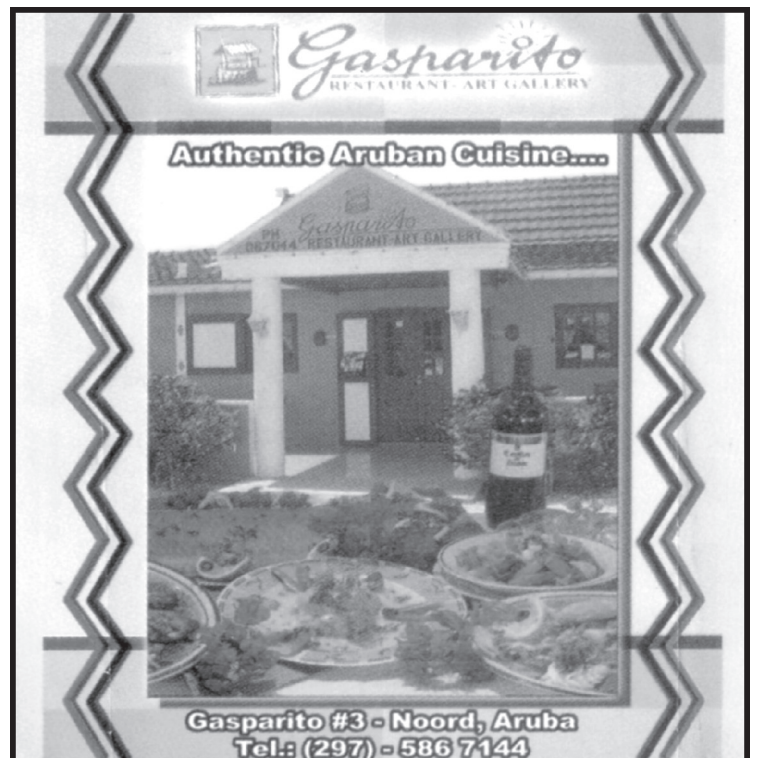


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De Palm Destination Management hosts Bayer Group



ORANJESTAD - Recently over 370 employees from the pharmaceutical company Bayer Venezuela visited Aruba for an incentive trip. De Palm Tours department of Destination Management Services coordinated the program with all details in cooperation with Taste Belgium and Mosaic. De Palm Tours DMS department has more than 25 years of experience in destination management services planning meetings, events, incentive travel programs and conferences. Making it the top full-service destination management company in Aruba.

The Bayer Group arrived on Monday with three charter flights and enjoyed five unforgettable days on the island.

All transfers were made with VIP treatment from their arrival to their departure. On Wednesday they all went to De Palm Island and enjoyed of the Water Park, its wonderful beaches and had the chance to do a snorkel tour and swim along the famous Blue Parrot Fish and experience other marine life.

There was also a buffet deliciously prepared by Taste of Belgium and DJ Metropolis entertained everyone. At night

a fabulous reception followed at the Radisson Ballroom.

On their final evening the group had a wonderful program at

Mr. Jazz. It was a night full of entertainment and enjoyment where participants danced the night away. On Friday Bayer

Group returned to Venezuela with unforgettable memories of their trip and of Aruba as tourist destination. □



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Lady Luck hits at Excelsior Casino

PALM BEACH – All the people in the pictures got very lucky indeed, with most winning well in excess of \$1000.00. The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. The beautiful Excelsior Casino will satisfy your taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack can be delt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. The Excelsior Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-\$100 no limit. No need to carry coins to the cashier! The Excelsior Casino's state of the art slot machines are totally Ticket-In, Ticket-Out. □



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WESTPOINT – Located on the lush grounds of Tierra del Sol is Ventanas del Mar Restaurant. The plush surroundings offer the perfect backdrop for a romantic dinner outside in the cool evening breeze, or a refreshing lunch in the afternoon shade. Ventanas del Mar's location is absolutely unique on the island; words simply can

not describe it. Contrary to popular belief, Tierra del Sol is open to the public. Don't be scared by the security gate, you will find you are more than welcome for lunch or dinner. Get away from the busy beaches for a day and come and soak up the rest and tranquility that only Ventanas del Mar can offer you.



Executive Chef Jim Rooseman has taken the level of cuisine to a whole new level, bringing you the most exquisite dishes and original flavors, in a variety that actually cannot be described expect by saying the fare is simply delicious. The excellently trained staff awaits your every need, whether you want advice on which wine to choose from the vast wine vault, or anything else that comes to mind. Consider yourself cordially invited for lunch and/or dinner!

*For more information call
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A truly unique ambiance Café Rembrandt takes your saturday to new heights



PALM BEACH - Boasting fine dark wood finishes throughout, a patrons table and a fantastic outdoor terrace, café Rembrandt is sure to give you that comfortable and convivial feel. The staff is a solid team with abundant experience, and they all share the love for hospitality. Café Rembrandt has the ambience of a bar where you can spend an afternoon reading the paper, while at the

same go there for a big night out. Three days a week there is live music, always at the right pace but never too loud. Café Rembrandt is open for lunch, boasting various Dutch delights, ranging from sandwiches to "bitterballen" (the original Dutch snack) to salads and warm dishes. At night you can sit down both inside and out for a relaxed dinner.

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EAGLE BEACH – Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operatead Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you. Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a res-

ervation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spare-ribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



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Christie Roelofsen Promoted To Restaurant Manager New Manager At Sizzling Ruth's Chris Steak House

PALM BEACH - The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino proudly announces the promotion of Christie Roelofsen as restaurant manager of the renowned Ruth's Chris Steak House.

Christie has been with the Aruba Marriott since August 2002, starting as a management

intern at various departments including restaurants, followed by a permanent position as gift shop supervisor (the Bazaar) from July 2003 until November 2004. Christie then took on the challenge of "At Your Service" manager, getting this department ready to grow. In her most recent position as guest

relations manager Christie was responsible for the Elite Planners and Concierge for the 3 Aruba Marriott properties and the Resort Bell Stand team, showing her skills of taking care of her associates and hotel guests.

Christie will start in her new position as restaurant manager as of January 26, 2009. Getting her up to speed with brand standards, Christie will fulfill a Manager in Development (MID) training program of 7 weeks at a Ruth's Chris training store in the United States.

Eduard Renaud, General Manager of Ruth's Chris Steak House is excited to have Christie as a part of Ruth's Chris team and confident that she will be a great asset to the sizzling steak house. The Aruba Marriott congratulates Christie and wishes her all the best in her new position.

The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com.

Aruba Marriott Resort is the new home to Ruth's Chris Steak House that opened February 11, 2008 This world-renowned, fine-dining restaurant in Aruba is being introduced as part of a \$50 million dollar renovation at the Aruba Marriott. Ruth's Chris Steak House, Inc. is the largest fine-dining company in the U.S., as measured by the total number of company-owned and franchise-owned restaurants, with 118 locations worldwide. Founded in New Orleans by Ruth Fertel in 1965, Ruth's Chris specializes in USDA Prime grade steaks served in Ruth's Chris signature fashion ... "sizzling." For information and reservations, visit www.RuthsChris.com or call 520-6225. □



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The New 2009 Production of the Let's Go Latin!

The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent **HAVANA Dance** takes the stage. A thrilling mix of Latin/Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy modern/traditional Cuban dance.

HAVANA Dance is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean featuring true Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. Don't miss it!

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Dinner Show package at L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House \$89

For reservations and information, please call 583-6000 ext. 6115 (between 9am till 5pm) after 5pm please call 583-6000 ext. 6357
 Tickets available at concierge desks and the box office at the Renaissance Resort.

15% discount

Bring this ad at the Box-Office of the CRYSTAL Theater at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and get 15% discount. Box-office open from 02pm till 09pm from Monday through Saturday.

The hottest Cuban show ticket on the island!

SHOW DATES: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

HAVANA DANCE DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE



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Association of Caribbean States Endorses CAFIF, Pulse's CFW & WISIC Projects

ORANJESTAD - At its recent meeting in Aruba, the Association of Caribbean States endorsed the newly organized Caribbean Fashion Industry Forum (CAFIF) and its two key projects for 2009, Caribbean Fashionweek and the West Indies Sea Island Cotton collaboration with Caribbean fashion designers. These new developments are expected to give the Caribbean fashion

industry a much needed shot in the arm, as the industry moves development forward in a united fashion and on a regional basis. The CAFIF presentation at the 9th ACS Business Forum of the Greater Caribbean was facilitated by the Barbados based Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA). The ACS Forum was organized in collaboration with CEDA, the Government of the Republic

of Korea and the Government of Aruba, and took place in the Crystal Ballroom of the Renaissance Conference Center.

CAFIF's presentation consisted of an overview of the current state of the Caribbean fashion industry by CAFIF Chairman Kingsley Cooper, followed by presentations by Tonika Sealy, CAFIF founding member and Senior Services Advisor at

Caribbean Export; Claudia Pegus, Trinidadian designer and CAFIF founding member; Vitus Evans, CAFIF founding member, head of the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation, producers of West Indies Sea Island Cotton in Jamaica and board member of ECCI and Adlai Stephenson, head of Exclusive Cottons of the Caribbean (ECCI), producers of West Indies Sea Island Cotton in Barbados. In a brief presentation, Deputy Director of CEDA, Alan Ramirez, committed his organization to the provision of support for the projects.

These presentations covered West Indies Sea Island Cotton (WISIC), the most luxurious cotton in the world. At US\$10 per lb, WISIC lint is 5 times the price of Egyptian cotton. Presentations also looked at plans to make this cotton available to the Caribbean's best designers for the development of lines to target high end resort visitors to the region, as a first market. This would give the members of our regional industry catering for that high end clientele, a shot at the targeted segment of the thirteen million tourists who visit the Caribbean each year.

The discussions also included the fact that Caribbean Fashionweek would play an integral role in this process, as CFW focuses even more on the development of Caribbean fashion, as opposed to showcasing designers. This enhanced role for CFW started with the Declaration of Kingston in June, which was endorsed unanimously by the regional fashion industry. Most of the key public and private sector stakeholders in the region were in attendance at the Forum. The WISIC project will be launched at CFW in 2009. Research and documentation for the cotton presentation was done by CAFIF founding member Richard Passley, lecturer in the Cultural Industries programme at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

In Aruba, Cooper outlined the aims and objectives of the



Declaration of Kingston, which looked at the challenges facing the regional industry and the required solutions, included the Sea Island cotton / Caribbean designer collaboration, as set out in clause 6, subsections e, f, g and h of the Declaration. During his address, DVD highlights from CFW 2008 was aired. The CAFIF presentation got the full endorsement of the ACS, enthusiastically led by Columbia's Ambassador to Jamaica His Excellency Ventura Diaz. He urged CAFIF to extend the cotton project to the wider Caribbean, including the continental Caribbean of South American nations, and to make CFW an event that moved around the region, instead of being based in a single territory. Cooper pledged to do this, as long as sufficient regional funding was made available to support a roving regional event. Following the ACS meeting, the members of the Steering Group in attendance in Aruba, which also included Andrea King of the Secretariat, had a working meeting of CAFIF. Decisions made included the formal registration of CAFIF and the pursuit of the initiatives presented to the ACS meeting. Both CEDA and the ECCI agreed to support these initiatives.

Arlene Martin has been appointed Managing Consultant for CAFIF and its 2009 projects.

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The Aruban Resort continues renovation progress

EAGLE BEACH - The Aruban Resort & Casino at Eagle Beach on Aruba is building momentum on its comprehensive renovation project, including expected completion of 16-unit store to reflect a completely new Caribbean Contemporary design, a new Owners' VIP Reception Room and Open-Air Seating Lounge, and completion of a new three-bedroom model. These renovations complement a number of recent capital improvements at the resort including a new one-bedroom model, a new Cardio Fitness Gym exclusively for members and guests, a refurbished pool, waterslide and outdoor showers, new pool furniture, new magnetic key room locks, a new state-of-the-art telephone system, new Internet station and replacement of the roofing. In particular, the 16-Unit Building B is getting a completely new exterior look that combines glazed blue roof tiles, plantation-style shutters and Brazilian hardwood trellises as well as blue-gray glass and aluminum railings to create a modern yet

traditional feel for the resort. The one-, two- and three-Bedroom suites and penthouses are being completely remodeled with porcelain designer tiles, Artone kitchen cabinets and LG & GE stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and European style bathrooms with walk-in showers. Italian marble vanity counters with raised porcelain sinks and wall-mounted faucets finish the bathroom decor, creating a spa-like visual experience. The living areas feature a 42-inch flat screen television and a comfortable sectional queen sleeper. The bedrooms will feature a completely new contemporary design aesthetic, with pillow top beds, an abundance of pillows along with and fresh white linens and built-in dresser closets to visually open up the rooms. The units will include a second 42-inch flat screen television in the master bedroom, along with 32-inch sets in the other bedrooms. A new state-of-the-art Otis elevator has also been installed. Other planned resort renovations include:



- Redecorating the remaining suites at the resort with new paint, mattresses, pillows and towels. Remodeling of the suites will be an ongoing process over the next several years.
- 42-inch flat screen TVs for all the living rooms of the suites, along with a Pay-Per-View entertainment system.
- New broadband wireless Internet access for the resort.
- Open Air VIP Seating

Lounge in the front lobby area is completed.

- Installation of a sound system in both lobbies as well as the inner courtyard area
- Painting on-site Dunkin' Donuts with new resort colors.

- Painting of common areas, including each reception floor, with new resort colors.
- New landscaping of the resort to complement the Contemporary Caribbean look. □

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It Matters to Get the Oath Right

Chief Justice John Roberts, whose familiarity with the Constitution has always been slimmer than should be allowed in a Supreme Court Justice, revealed his limitations to the nation when he fumbled the job of swearing in the new president. Conspiracy theorists on the right and left can make of the chief justice's misstatement of the oath what they may. My suspicion that there was no great calculus on display Tuesday; Roberts was merely illustrating the seriousness with which he approaches the Constitution and his duties relating to it.

But whatever the explanation for the jurist's failure on January 20, the semi-formal "do over" on January 21 was an essential act.

No, Obama's claim on the presidency was not threatened by the fact that Roberts flubbed the administration of the oath. Past presidents (Chester Arthur, Calvin Coolidge) have been placed in repeat-the-oath circumstances and, of course, if a challenge was posed to the 44th president's official legitimacy, it would be resolved by a Supreme Court led by suitably-shamed Roberts -- who, presumably, would affirm that all was well with the republic and its practices.

It was important to get the oath right because it is important to communicate the seriousness with which the president and everyone else in Washington takes the Constitution.

After eight years when George Bush and Dick Cheney refused to take seriously their sworn commitments "to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," nothing but good can come from the current focus on the oath that is outlined in Article II, Section I of the US Constitution.

During the long debate over the high crimes and misdemeanors of the previous president and his prince regent, I argued the most serious of their many impeachable offenses was a disregard for an oath that bound them to follow the dictates of the Constitution with regard to declarations of war, respect for the system of checks and balances, the protection of privacy and a clear ban on cruel and usual punishment of individuals detained by the US government.

At the root of that argument was the oath. The founders, who feared above all the rise of a monarchical presidency, made mention of the oath in the Constitution as a guard against the unitary executive and all the sins extending from that most un-American of concepts.

That Barack Obama would, because of the ineptness of John Roberts, have to speak the oath twice at the opening of this new presidency, and that the whole world followed the process is healthy.

Come to think of it, perhaps presidents should swear that oath to obey the Constitution every day that they serve -- as a reminder of their first and final duty. ☐



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Button' rules Oscars, Batman's a bridesmaid

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” is the Academy Awards heavyweight with 13 nominations, yet the shadow of Batman loomed large with the absence of “The Dark Knight” in the best-picture race.

An epic romance that earned a best-actor nomination for Brad Pitt and a directing spot for David Fincher, “Benjamin Button” was joined in the best-picture category Thursday by the Richard Nixon tale “Frost/Nixon,” the chronicle of gay-rights leader Harvey Milk in “Milk,” the Holocaust-themed drama “The Reader” and the rags-to-riches crowd-pleaser “Slumdog Millionaire.”

The Batman blockbuster “The Dark Knight” had picked up so much momentum from honors by Hollywood trade unions that awards watchers generally thought it would land a best-picture nomination.

“Benjamin Button” producer Frank Marshall said “it was a bit of a surprise” that his movie would not be competing with “The Dark Knight” for the top prize. “The fact that ‘The Dark Knight’ did so well at the box office was probably a good thing and maybe a not-so-good thing,” Marshall said. “People tend to think films as successful as that are not well made, but certainly, ‘Dark

Knight’ is exceptionally well made.”

As expected, “Dark Knight” co-star Heath Ledger earned a supporting-actor nomination on the one-year anniversary of his death from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs. If Ledger wins, he would become only the second actor to receive an Oscar posthumously, following Peter Finch, the best-actor recipient for 1976’s “Network.”

Josh Brolin, competing against Ledger with a supporting-actor nomination for “Milk,” said the acclaim for Ledger was bittersweet.

“It’s too bad, because every time I think of Heath, I’m split down the middle,” Brolin said. “I think of his performance. I think of the work that he’s done, and then the fact that this tragedy happened. It’s an uncomfortable situation, for sure, but it makes sense to me, because I thought he did a bang-out job.”

“The Dark Knight” picked up seven other nominations for technical achievement, among them cinematography and visual effects.

Yet it missed out on other major categories, including directing and screenplay. The directors and writers guilds both had nominated “The Dark Knight” for their top honors, while the Producers Guild of

America nominated it for the year’s best film.

“Benjamin Button” leads a bold batch of best-picture candidates, among them Golden Globes champ “Slumdog Millionaire,” which came in second at the Oscars with 10 nominations. □




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President Barack Obama signs a series of executive orders, including one closing of the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Obama moves to reshape U.S. policy by closing Gitmo

By STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Moving quickly to reverse many former Bush administration policies, President Barack Obama signed orders Thursday to close the Guantanamo Bay prison, shut down secret overseas CIA prisons, review military trials of terror suspects and ban the harshest interrogation tactics.

He also tackled the thorny issue of peace in the Middle East, calling on Israel and Hamas to take steps to ensure the cease-fire that is in place in Gaza will endure.

Obama's three executive orders and presidential directive reshape how the United States prosecutes and questions al-Qaida, Taliban or other foreign fighters who pose a threat to Americans.

They also mark a reversal of eight years of a secretive Bush administration policies that authorized harsh interrogations, the secret kidnapping and transferring of suspected terrorists, and a domestic surveillance program.

"We intend to win this fight. We're going to win it on our terms," Obama said of fighting terrorists. But he added he didn't want to have to make a "false choice" between successfully waging war against terrorist organizations and hewing to U.S. human rights ideals in the

process.

Obama also named a highly respected veteran politician to serve as special Mideast envoy, a step to make good on a campaign pledge to be more robustly involved in efforts to help with peace efforts in the volatile region. He also named a veteran diplomat to be special envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Other measures by the Obama administration were running into difficulties.

Two House committees prepared for a floor vote next week on Obama's \$825 billion-plus economic stimulus package, which was not picking up the level of Republican support that Obama was hoping for.

And some Democrats expressed frustration at a separate hearing Thursday that the bill doesn't do enough to rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure.

At the same time, the House cast a symbolic vote rejecting Obama's request for the unspent \$350 billion in a bailout fund for the financial sector.

The vote has no effect because the Senate had already refused to block the money's release, making it available to the new administration. But it illustrated the difficulties facing Obama as he moves ahead to spend the bailout money without irritating public opinion.

Continued on Next Page

Rally marks Roe v. Wade anniversary, new president



With the Capitol in the background, abortion opponents march to the Supreme Court in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, to mark the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade march for Life.

Associated Press

By BRIAN WESTLEY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of abortion opponents rallied Thursday on the National Mall to mark the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade amid concerns they could face political setbacks under the new president.

The rally and subsequent march to the Supreme Court

came two days after the swearing-in of President Barack Obama, which many at the rally said emphasized their need to become more vocal with their message.

Among those attending the rally was Kirk Kramer of Cottage City, Md., who held up a sign reading: "The Audacity Of Hope: No More Roe."

Continued on Page B3



Undated picture released by Swiss TV station SF1 shows Urs Tinner, suspected of involvement in the world's biggest nuclear smuggling ring, interviewed in a TV documentary of Swiss television at unknown location, that will be broadcast Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009.

Associated Press

Swiss nuclear smuggling suspect claims CIA link

See Page B6



Vice President-elect Joseph Biden is sworn in during the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America on the West Front of the Capitol Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009 in Washington, Biden's wife, Jill, holds the Bible.

Associated Press

U.S. POLICY

Continued from Page B1

The vote came as the government reported that initial jobless benefit claims rose to a 26-year high. Another report indicated that new home construction plunged to an all-time low in December, capping the worst year for builders on records dating back to 1959. Fixing the faltering economy has been a top concern for Obama, who has asked to be briefed on it every morning in a way that is similar to the

national security briefing he receives every morning.

The point man for the administration's economic rescue effort, Timothy Geithner, moved closer to becoming treasury secretary Thursday, when the Senate Finance Committee cleared his nomination and sent it to the full Senate.

Obama's second day in office was marked by a flurry of activity, including a news conference at the State Department in which he

addressed the conflict in Gaza for the first time since his inauguration.

The president said he would aggressively seek a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians while also always defending Israel's "right to defend itself."

He called on Hamas to end rocket fire at Israel, and for Israel to complete the pullout of forces from Gaza, and said Gaza's borders should be opened to allow aid to come in, with "appropriate monitoring." Meanwhile, former detainees, human-rights advocates and government officials around the world welcomed the move on Guantanamo, as did Congressional Democrats. But it drew questions from Republican leaders.

House Minority Leader John Boehner said Republicans want to work with Obama to address national security concerns, which include placing and securing the detainees after Guantanamo is closed.

In other orders, Obama created a task force to recommend policies on handling terror suspects detained in the future, and directed personnel to follow the U.S. Army Field manual during interrogations.

The manual prohibits threats, coercion and physical abuse, though the administration is planning a study of more aggressive interrogation methods that could be added to the manual.

He also ordered the CIA to close all its existing detention facilities abroad for terror suspects - and prohibits those prisons from being used in the future. The agency has used those secret "black site" prisons around the world to question terror suspects.

The administration already had suspended trials for terrorist suspects at Guantanamo for 120 days pending a review of the military tribunals.

An estimated 245 men are being held at the U.S. naval base in Cuba, most of whom have been detained for years without being charged with a crime.

The man tapped to oversee U.S. intelligence told the Senate Intelligence Committee on Thursday that there would be no torture and no warrantless wiretapping on his watch.

"It is a rallying cry for terrorist recruitment and harmful to our national security, so closing it is important for our national security," Retired Adm. Dennis Blair said in prepared remarks.

Obama visited the State Department to meet with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and his top national security advisers to round out a day focused on restoring the U.S. image abroad.

The Obama-Clinton meeting included Vice President Joe Biden and national security adviser Jim Jones and his deputy. It was followed by an address to department employees in which Obama and Clinton announced George Mitchell, the former Senate Democratic leader, as special Mideast envoy, and Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, as special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mitchell, 75, will return to a role he pursued during President Bill Clinton's presidency when the former senator took on several difficult diplomatic assignments, including chairing peace talks on Northern Ireland.

Mitchell also led an international commission to investigate violence in the Middle East. His report, issued in spring 2001, after Clinton had left office, called for a freeze on Israeli settlements on the West Bank and a Palestinian crackdown on terrorism. □

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ROLY WADE

Continued from Page B1

Kramer, a Democrat, said he has mixed feelings about Obama. He supports the president's position on Iraq but said he was concerned about statements Obama made during the campaign indicating support for the Freedom of Choice Act, which would overrule many state-level restrictions on access to abortion.

"Love always finds a way. There's a way we can find for every pregnant woman to have a child or give it up for adoption," he said.

In a letter posted on their Web site, organizers invited Obama to speak at Thursday's rally.

"America needs your strong leadership as president of all the people to stop the intentional killing of an estimated 3,000 pre-born boys and girls each day and the brutalizing of mind, heart and body of pregnant mothers," the letter states.

Obama, who did not attend the rally, issued a statement Thursday saying the government "should not intrude on our most private family matters" and reaffirming his support for abortion rights.

"While this is a sensitive and often divisive issue, no matter what our views, we are united in our determination to prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the need for abortion, and support women and families in the choices they make," Obama said.

A small group of abortion-rights supporters also gathered in front of the Supreme Court on Thursday.

Lisa King of Washington, D.C., said she is disappointed that Obama did not immediately move to overturn the so-called "global gag rule," which denies U.S. funds to any international family planning group that provides abortion-related services or information.

"I'm just waiting and seeing really," King said. "I don't have any huge expectations just because he's a Democrat."

She said she worries the abortion issue will be a low priority, given all the other problems that Obama faces.

President George W. Bush regularly voiced support for those attending the annual anti-abortion rally. In audio remarks broadcast to demonstrators last year, he said biology confirms that from the start, each unborn child is a separate individual with his or her own genetic code.

American public opinion about abortion has been fairly stable in recent decades, with polls nearly always finding a narrow majority saying the procedure should be legal in all or most cases.

Lyn Williams of State College, Pa., said she did not vote for Obama because she said he ran a left-wing ticket, but that she's been pleased with his more moderate choices for his Cabinet.

"Maybe he's going to surprise



Abortion opponents gather for a rally on the National Mall in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, before marching to the Supreme Court to mark the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade March for Life.

Associated Press

us, and I'm praying he will," she said.

The rally stretched for about three blocks on the Mall and included many young people. The Rev. Voniface Ewah, who leads a Corning, N.Y., parish, said he likes Obama's message of hope and believes it's too soon to say where the president stands on abortion. He said politicians say all kinds of things during elections and that Catholics have an opportunity to educate Obama about the importance of protecting the unborn.

"It's a moment for us to pray," he said. "I believe that God can touch the heart of the president." □

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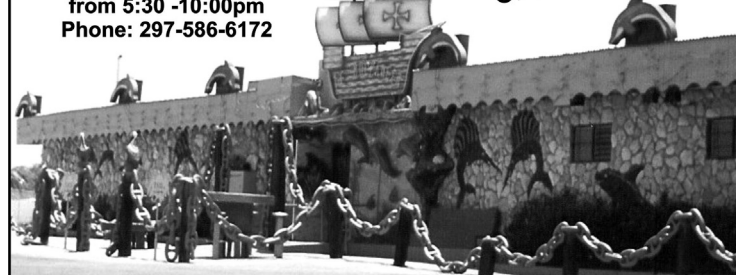


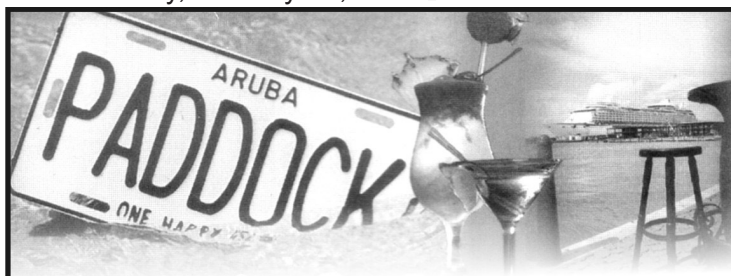
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Caroline Kennedy's withdrawal creates a political mystery



In this Dec. 17, 2008 file photo, Caroline Kennedy, daughter of former President John F. Kennedy, listens to a reporter's question during a news conference at City Hall in Buffalo, N.Y. In a statement released early Thursday, Jan. 22 Kennedy says she told Gov. David Paterson that she is abandoning her attempt to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton for personal reasons.

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Caroline Kennedy's mysteriously abrupt decision to abandon her Senate bid gave rise to an ugly swirl of accusations Thursday and feverish speculation over whether she jumped or was pushed. The 51-year-old daughter of President John F. Kennedy was widely considered a front-runner for the Senate seat until she sent a midnight e-mail to reporters and Gov. David Paterson saying she was withdrawing for what she described only as personal reasons. Even though many Democrats had thought Paterson was going to appoint Kennedy any day now, a person close to the governor said Thursday that Paterson had no intention of picking her because he believed she handled herself poorly in introducing herself as a candidate.

The person also said there were concerns about possible tax problems for Kennedy, a potential "nanny problem" involving a housekeeper, and media rumors that her marriage was on the rocks. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he said he wasn't authorized to speak for the governor, would not elaborate.

Kennedy spokesman Stefan Friedman would not detail her reasons for withdrawing, but complained: "This kind of mudslinging demeans that process and all those involved."

The state tax department said it could not find any problems with Kennedy's tax records. In a December interview, she denied she had any "nannygate" problem and said that her husband, Edwin Schlossberg, was very supportive and that they lived together with their children.

In recent weeks, the media gossip Web site Gawker and Vanity Fair have published rumors that Kennedy's marriage was in trouble.

On Thursday, Paterson issued a statement in which he said Kennedy's decision "was hers alone" and that he hadn't ruled out any candidate before she withdrew. He is expected to announce his choice Friday. Kennedy's withdrawal unfolded in almost comically chaotic fashion.

She called the governor around midday Wednesday and told him she was having second thoughts about the job, the person close to Paterson said. After several hours in which the governor's staff could not find her to discuss the matter, she told the governor she would remain in contention,

the person said. Then, an hour later, came the midnight e-mail.

People close to the governor were clearly angry at Kennedy over the confusion.

"The question is, did she jump or was she pushed?" said Maurice Carroll of the Quinnipiac University poll.

A person close to Kennedy denied her "personal reasons" were concerns about the health of her uncle, Sen. Ted Kennedy, who is suffering from a cancerous brain tumor discovered last summer. It has been known for months that the prognosis was grave.

"I don't think it was Sen. Kennedy's health, because that doesn't seem to be anything that's changed dramatically," said Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist College poll that tracks New York politics. "I think that it may have been that she found out that she was going to be rejected and was given the option to avoid. She may have found the process increasingly dissatisfying. And given that she has been a private person, the last few weeks weren't pleasant."

"My guess," Miringoff said, "is it was a combination of all of the above. But we don't know."

Kennedy, an author, lawyer and fundraiser for New York City schools, was bitterly criticized in the past few weeks for holding reporters at bay during her early public forays, then was ridiculed for interviews in which she gave halting, rambling answers littered with "you know" and "um." Doug Muzzio, a political science professor at Baruch College, called Kennedy's withdrawal "bizarre and ultimately embarrassing" to her and Paterson.

Among those who are still said to be in the running for the Senate seat left vacant by Hillary Rodham Clinton's appointment as secretary of state are New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Reps. Kirsten Gillibrand, Carolyn Maloney and Brian Higgins, and Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi. □

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Van left in reverse kills two kids walking in NYC

By SAMUEL MAULL
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — An unoccupied delivery van mistakenly left in reverse jumped a curb and barreled into a group of children returning to their day care center after a trip to the library Thursday, killing two of them and seriously injuring a third, police said. Fourteen other children were hospitalized for treatment of minor injuries. The incident, which occurred

in Manhattan's Chinatown commercial district around 11:30 a.m. as the children walked less than two blocks through the busy area with their teachers, was ruled an accident, and the driver wasn't charged, police said. An investigation found that the driver had double-parked and jumped out of the van to make a delivery, thinking he had left it running in park, police said. Instead, the van traveled backward and hopped

a curb on the opposite side of the street.

The driver initially was held for questioning, but "it turns out this was an accident," police spokesman Paul Browne said. An examination of the van and a security video tape supported the driver's account, Browne added. Police identified the children who died as Hayley Ng, 4, and Diego Martinez, 3, both of Manhattan. At the Red Apple Child Development Center, a police



Emergency service personnel work at the scene of an accident on East Broadway in the Chinatown neighborhood of Manhattan, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, in New York.

Associated Press

CDC study: Kentucky has highest smoking death rate

ATLANTA — Kentucky and West Virginia — where people traditionally smoke the most — have the highest death rates from smoking, a new federal study has found.

Rounding out the 10 states with the highest average annual smoking death rates were Nevada, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Indiana and Missouri.

The lowest death rates were in Utah and Hawaii, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The smoking death rate in Kentucky was about 371 deaths out of every 100,000 adults age 35 and older.

That was nearly one-and-a-half times higher than the national median of 263 per 100,000. And it was nearly three times the rate for Utah, which was 138 per 100,000.

The smoking death rates were calculated using death certificate data from the years 2000 through 2004, focusing on lung cancer and 18 other diseases caused by cigarette smoking.

The rates track pretty closely with the adult smoking rates in each state. Kentucky and West Virginia had the highest smoking rates in 2004 as well. But obesity and other problems that trigger heart disease are also factors. Smoking, added

to those problems, "is like gasoline on the fire," said Terry Pechacek, a CDC senior scientist for tobacco-related issues.

For every state, the annual number of smoking deaths was higher among males than females. However, rates declined in men in 49 states since the late 1990s, but declined in women in only 32 states.

The report is published this week in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

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In this undated photo released by Swiss television station SF1, Urs Tinner, who is suspected of involvement in the world's biggest nuclear smuggling ring, is seen at an unknown location during an interview for a televised documentary to be broadcast on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009 by Swiss TV station SF1. Tinner is suspected, along with his brother Marco and father, Friedrich, of supplying Khan's clandestine network with technical know-how and equipment that was used to make gas centrifuges. Khan, creator of Pakistan's atomic bomb, sold the centrifuges to countries for secret nuclear weapons programs, including Libya and Iran, before his operation was disrupted in 2003.

Associated Press

By **FRANK JORDANS**
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA (AP) -A Swiss man suspected of being involved in the world's biggest nuclear

smuggling ring claims he supplied the CIA with information that led to the breakup of the black market nuclear network led by Pakistani

Swiss nuclear smuggling suspect claims CIA link

scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. In a documentary airing Thursday on Swiss TV station SF1, Urs Tinner says he tipped off U.S. intelligence about a delivery of centrifuge parts meant for Libya's nuclear weapons program. The shipment was seized at the Italian port of Taranto in 2003, forcing Libya to admit and eventually renounce its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. The 43-year-old Tinner is suspected, along with his brother Marco and father Friedrich, of supplying Khan's clandestine network with technical know-how and equipment that was used to make gas centrifuges. Khan - the creator of Pakistan's atomic bomb - sold the centrifuges for secret nuclear weapons programs in countries that included Libya and Iran before his operation was

disrupted in 2003. Tinner was freed by Swiss authorities last month after almost five years in investigative detention and he has yet to be charged. Tinner's account echoes that of the book "The Nuclear Jihadist," by U.S. investigative reporters Douglas Frantz and Catherine Collins. Frantz says, based on interviews with sources in the U.S. intelligence community, Urs Tinner was recruited by the CIA as early as 2000. A CIA spokesman, George Little, refused to discuss the Tinner case. The agency has said in the past that "the disruption of the A.Q. Khan network was a genuine intelligence success, one in which the CIA played a key role." In the Swiss documentary, Tinner also claims he sabotaged equipment destined for uranium enrichment facilities so it would

malfunction on first use. He does not say which country the sabotaged parts were destined for. Former Swiss Justice Minister Christoph Blocher told the SF documentary that he traveled to Washington in 2007 - three years after Urs Tinner's arrest - to discuss the case with then-U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. Blocher says he refused a U.S. request to hand over thousands of files of evidence in the case, but the Swiss Cabinet later decided to shred the files after it learned they contained information that could endanger national security, including nuclear warhead designs. On Thursday, a parliamentary panel criticized the government for destroying the files, saying there was no immediate danger to Switzerland's internal or external security. □



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JANUARY 22 - JANUARY 28				
*matinee: saturday and sunday late show: friday and saturday				
AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD				
PG	INKHEART			NEW
	daily: 5:30 7:45 10:00			
	matinee: 1:00 3:15 late show: 12:15			
R	CHANGELING			NEW
	daily: 6:15 9:10			
	matinee: 12:30 3:25 late show: 12:00			
R	REVOLUTIONARY ROAD			NEW
	daily: 4:55 7:25 9:50			
	matinee: 11:55 2:25 late show: 12:20			
R	NOTORIOUS			
	daily: 4:15 6:50 9:20			
	matinee: 1:40 late show: 11:50			
PG-13	YES MAN			
	daily: 5:20 7:30 9:45			
	matinee: 12:45 3:00 late show: 11:55			
PG	MARLY & ME			
	daily: 4:30 7:00 9:35			
	matinee: 1:55 late show: 12:05			
AT PASEO HERENCIA				
R	REVOLUTIONARY ROAD			NEW
	daily: 5:00 7:25 9:55			
	matinee: 12:00 2:30 late show: 12:15			
PG	INKHEART			NEW
	daily: 5:20 7:35 9:50			
	matinee: 12:50 3:05 late show: 12:00			
PG-13	YES MEN			
	daily: 5:40 7:50 10:05			
	matinee: 1:05 3:25 late show: 12:15			
R	THE PUNISHER: WAR ZONE			
	daily: 5:30 8:00 10:10			
	matinee: 1:00 3:15 late show: 12:25			
R	VALKYRIE			
	daily: 4:55 7:20 9:45			
	matinee: 11:50 2:20 late show: 12:10			
PG	BRIDE WARS			
	daily: 4:05 6:05 8:05 10:00			
	matinee: 12:05 2:05 late show: 12:05			
DRIVE-IN January 22 - January 25				
PG	BOLT			
	Thursday: 8:00 Friday: 8:00 & 10:30			
R	VALKYRIE			
	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30 Sunday: 8:00			

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US envoy in Iraq warns against hasty withdrawal

By ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — A hasty departure of U.S. troops from Iraq would carry severe risks, including bolstering al-Qaida and threatening Iraqi progress toward a functioning society, the outgoing U.S. ambassador said Thursday.

U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker spoke to reporters a day after he and the top U.S. commander in Iraq briefed President Barack Obama on the situation here.

Obama, who campaigned on a promise to end the war, asked the Pentagon to do whatever additional planning was necessary to “execute a responsible military drawdown from Iraq,” the White House said Wednesday.

Crocker, who is retiring after a 30-year diplomatic career, declined to say what he and Gen. Ray Odierno told the president during the video hookup. But he noted that the president was committed to a responsible pullout of the more than 140,000-strong U.S. force.

“A precipitous withdrawal runs some very severe risks,” Crocker said, including a possible revival of al-Qaida and encouraging “neighbors with less than benign intentions” to influence events in Iraq.

He said al-Qaida had been “much weakened” due to setbacks on the battlefield and a loss of support within the Sunni Arab community.

“But as long as they can cling

to some handhold here, they are going to keep trying to literally fight their way back,” Crocker said.

“And perhaps most important it would have a chilling effect on Iraqis,” he said of a quick U.S. departure. “I think the spirit of compromise, of accommodation, of focus on institutional development — all of that would run the risk of getting set aside.”

Iraqi officials have said they hope the new administration will stick by the timeline set down in the U.S.-Iraq security agreement that took effect this month. The deal provides for U.S. combat troops to leave the cities by the end of June, with all U.S. troops gone from the country by 2012.

“We are prepared for the worst possibilities,” Defense Minister Abdul-Qader al-Obeidi told reporters Thursday. “We cannot leave our country whether these forces withdraw or not. We have plans for the worst possibilities and we mean it.”

The chairman of the parliamentary defense committee, Abbas al-Bayati, said Wednesday that Iraq has drawn up contingency plans in case Obama orders a speeded-up withdrawal.

Obama called during the campaign for a pullout of all U.S. combat troops from within 16 months of taking office.

Although Crocker spoke of the risks of a “precipitous withdrawal,” he said that “it’s clear that’s not the direction in

which this is trending.”

A Sunni insurgent group, the Mujahedeen Army, said Obama’s plans don’t seem much different from those of former President George W. Bush and urged him to remove all U.S. troops, according to the Washington-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors terrorism messages.

In a statement posted on Islamic extremist Web sites, the group said if Obama wants to resolve problems left by Bush, “take your soldiers, all your soldiers, and (those) who came with them as agents, and fully withdraw them.”

Crocker said security and political progress in Iraq “has been significant” but “we can’t underestimate the challenges and the time it will take to work through those.”

U.S. officials are closely watching a series of elections this year as an indicator whether Iraq has turned the corner and is on the way to lasting stability.

Voters in most of the country will choose ruling provincial councils Jan. 31, with parliamentary balloting expected by the end of the year.

Provincial balloting will not be held in the three Kurdish self-ruled provinces until the regional legislature approves an election law. Voting was postponed indefinitely in the province around Kirkuk because the area’s ethnic groups could not agree on a power-sharing formula.

“The conduct and outcome of



The departing US ambassador Ryan Crocker, seen here in 2008, to Baghdad warned that an over fast withdrawal from Iraq could prove very dangerous for a nation still fragile after years of sectarian strife.

Photo by Ceerwan Aziz

those elections will be very important for the country, in particular that they be and be perceived as free and fair — in at least a general sense,”

Crocker said. “They aren’t going to be perfect elections. We all know that. But it is important that they be credible elections.” □



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PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping autobiography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink

at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana.

Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the

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Papillon RESTAURANT

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Venus Williams ousted, Nadal advances at Australian Open

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Venus Williams squandered a match point before losing 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 to 46th-ranked Carla Suarez Navarro in the biggest upset so far at the Australian Open.

Williams hardly looked like the reigning Wimbledon champion against the 20-year-old Spaniard, who reached the French Open quarterfinals last year as a qualifier in her first Grand Slam.

Usually the aggressor with her powerful shots, sixth-seeded Williams was sluggish Thursday as she was broken while serving for the match and dropped the last five games with the crowd cheering loudly for Suarez Navarro to finish off the victory.

"She was super consistent and aggressive and just went for her shots," said Williams, who has seven Grand Slam titles and now can only hope for a doubles crown here with sister Serena. "Probably one of her best matches she's ever played. "I wasn't in control of the points. I'm definitely used to

dictating the points a little bit more. It was kind of a pattern that wasn't the best for me."

Serena Williams struggled earlier and headed to the practice courts after a 6-3, 7-5 win over Argentina's Gisela Dulko, ranked 45th. Williams gave her performance a "D-minus at best."

Rafael Nadal got high marks for a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 win over Croatia's Roko Karanusic.

His potential semifinal rival, fourth-ranked Andy Murray, wasn't seriously challenged in his first real test, ousting 51st-ranked Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in 1 hour and 50 minutes.

The top-ranked Nadal has dropped only 11 games in six sets and next faces Germany's Tommy Haas, who beat Flavio Cipolla of Italy.

Nadal's biggest problem was finding a rhythm against the inconsistent, 92nd-ranked Karanusic, who has never made it past the second round in 11 Grand Slams.

Murray only had to be on court only 45 minutes in Tuesday's stifling heat before Andrei Pavel retired with a back injury.



Venus Williams of the United States pauses before recommencing play against Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain during a women's singles match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009.

Associated Press

With Scottish flags and tartan hats scattered around Rod Laver Arena on a cool Thursday night, Murray had 37 winners to 18 for Granollers. He credited a rigorous offseason training program.

"As a result, I got a little bit more power on my serve," said Murray, runner-up at the U.S. Open last year. "All the

work I did is paying off. This is probably the best I've felt coming into a Grand Slam."

Suarez Navarro, overmatched at first, broke twice in the second set as the 28-year-old Williams let a number of reachable shots fly past.

She saved a match point while serving at 4-5 in the deciding set and broke in the next game,

aided by a Williams double-fault.

Williams netted a forehand on match point in the next game for her 37th enforced error.

Suarez Navarro said she had little choice but to go for her shots.

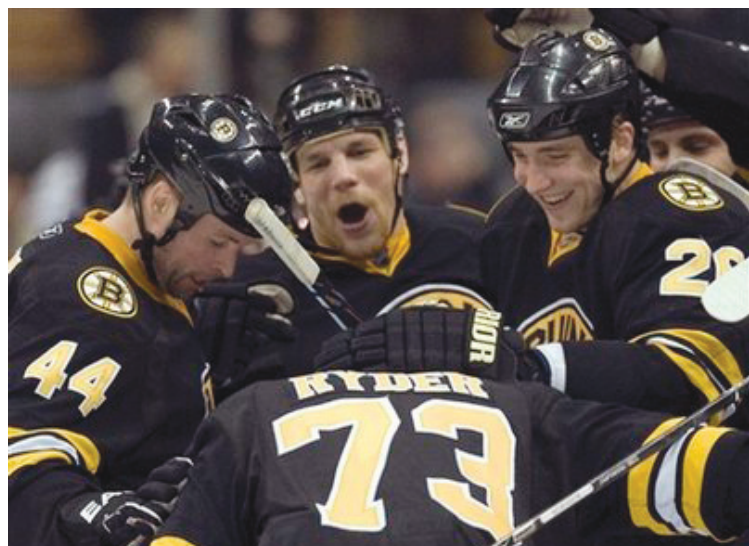
"You must be aggressive during all the match because, if not, she's going to take control of you."

Serena Williams said her victory left "lots and lots and lots of room for improvement" but she was happy to get through without her best form.

She looked to be headed to a quick victory — by the time Dulko hit her first winner, she already was down 3-0.

But the Argentine soon was matching the powerful Williams shot for shot. She saved triple set point while serving at 2-5, but Williams finished it off the next game with a pair of aces.

In the second set, Dulko — who said she wasn't sure she'd be able to play after running a high fever following a doubles match Wednesday — served at 5-3 in and held six set points in a game that went to deuce 12 times. □



Boston Bruins' Aaron Ward (44), Shawn Thornton, center, and Blake Wheeler (26) congratulate Michael Ryder after he scored an overtime shootout goal to give the Bruins the win over the Toronto Maple Leafs in an NHL hockey game in Toronto on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009.

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) - Michael Ryder beat goalkeeper Vesa Toskala with a high wrist shot in the fourth round of a shootout to give the Boston Bruins a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Maple

Leafs on Wednesday.

Blake Wheeler and Martin St. Pierre also scored for Boston in the shootout. Wheeler, Dennis Wideman, Zdeno Chara scored in regulation to help the Bruins

NHL Roundup

Bruins beat Maple Leafs in SO

(34-8-5) tie San Jose for the overall NHL lead entering the All-Star break.

Jason Blake, Lee Stempniak and Brad May scored for Toronto.

At Newark, New Jersey, Paul Martin scored on a breakaway goal and added an assist as New Jersey downed Montreal for its fifth straight victory.

The Devils entered the All-Star break in first place in the Atlanta Division, a seemingly unreachable goal when star goalie Martin Brodeur tore his biceps on Nov. 1.

Scott Clemmensen, Brodeur's replacement, made 26 saves, to improve to 19-9-1, and Travis Zajac, Johnny Oduya, Zach Parise and Patrik Elias added goals for the Devils, one point ahead of the New York Rangers

in the Atlantic. Josh Gorges and Matt D'Agostini scored for Montreal, 1-10-1-1 in its last 13 games in New Jersey.

At Philadelphia, Mike Knuble scored twice for Philadelphia and Antero Niittymaki made 28 saves to improve to 12-0 against Atlanta.

Niittymaki is one of only two active goalies with a perfect mark in at least 10 decisions against one team. Detroit's Chris Osgood is 17-0 against Tampa Bay.

Scott Hartnell, Darroll Powe and Randy Jones also scored, and Jeff Carter had two assists. Eric Perrin, Ilya Kovalchuk and Chris Thorburn scored for Atlanta.

At Chicago, Chris Mason made 21 saves for his second shutout

of the season, and Jeff Woywitka and Keith Tkachuk scored as St. Louis blanked Chicago.

The Blackhawks have lost two straight games at United Center in regulation to drop to 14-4-5 at home.

At Calgary, Alberta, Todd Bertuzzi scored for Calgary in the third round of a shootout, and Miikka Kiprusoff stopped Jakub Voracek's final attempt for Columbus.

In other NHL games Wednesday night, it was: New Jersey 5, Montreal 2; Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 3; Los Angeles 6, Colorado 5; St. Louis 2, Chicago 0; Calgary 5, Columbus 4 in a shootout; Tampa Bay 5, Buffalo 3; Dallas 4, Florida 1; and the New York Islanders 2, Anaheim 1. □

NBA Roundup

James, Williams lead Cavs over Blazers 104-98

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) - LeBron James had 34 points and 14 assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers held off the Portland Trail Blazers for a 104-98 victory on Wednesday.

Mo Williams added a season-high 33 points, including a career-high six 3-pointers for the Cavaliers. Cleveland made 11 of 19 3-point attempts.

Brandon Roy had 23 points for Portland, and LaMarcus Aldridge finished with 21.

Cleveland, which led by as many as 11 points in the first half, took a 68-59 lead when James hit two consecutive 3-pointers in the third quarter.

But Portland went ahead 82-81 midway through the fourth quarter on Roy's layup and free throw. Ben Wallace got the lead back for the Cavaliers with a layup, and James hit a 3-pointer.

Lakers 108, Clippers 97

At Los Angeles, Andrew Bynum scored a career-high 42 points and Kobe Bryant had his second triple-double in three games as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Clippers.

Bynum became the first Lakers player to reach 40 points other than

Bryant since Shaquille O'Neal scored 48 against Boston on March 21, 2003.

The 21-year-old center shot 17-of-24 from the floor and 8-of-11 from the foul line, and pulled down 15 rebounds.

Bryant, playing in pain two days after dislocating his right ring finger, added 18 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists for his 16th career triple-double. He hadn't had a triple-double since April 1, 2005, before accomplishing the feat last Friday night in a 109-103 loss to Orlando.

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Tayshaun Prince scored 12 of his 25 points in the third quarter to help Detroit beat Toronto.

The Pistons used Richard Hamilton as a reserve after the All-Star shooting guard started his first 611 games, including the playoffs, in his seven seasons with the team.

Chris Bosh had 19 points for the Raptors, who have lost seven straight.

Rodney Stuckey scored 17 points and Jason Maxiell had season highs in points (16) and rebounds (11) for Detroit. Allen Iverson scored 11 and reserve Antonio McDyess had 10

points and eight rebounds.

At Miami, Eddie House scored 20 points in the second quarter, finishing with 25 as Boston downed Miami to extend its winning streak to six games.

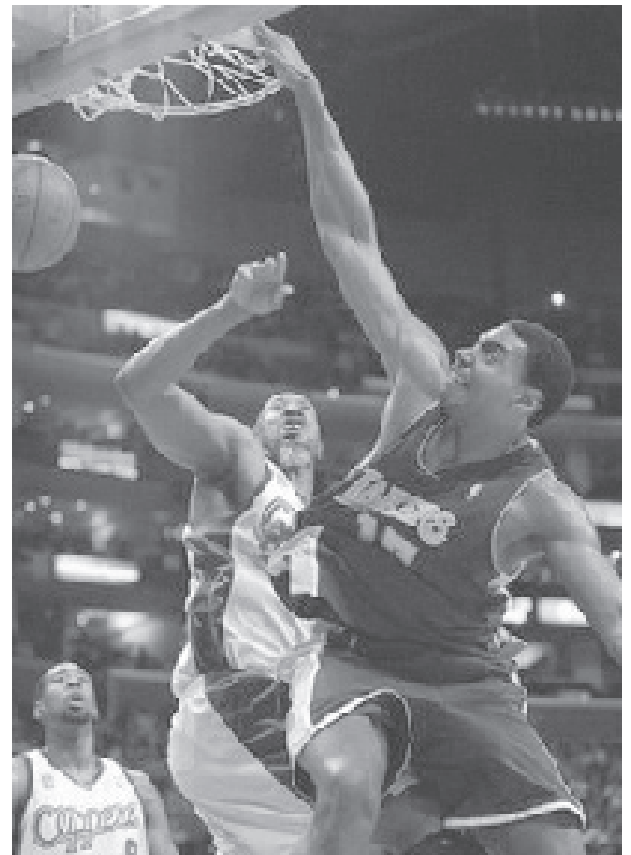
Ray Allen scored a game-high 27 for the Celtics, who were a season-high 15-for-25 from 3-point range. It matched the most 3s ever allowed by the Heat in their 21 seasons. Kevin Garnett had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and Paul Pierce added 14 points for Boston.

Dwyane Wade finished with 25 points, Daequan Cook scored 20 and Michael Beasley added 17 points and 11 rebounds for Miami.

Rockets 108, Jazz 99

At Houston, Yao Ming had 19 points and 12 rebounds and Rafer Alston scored 23 as Houston beat Utah for its sixth win in seven games.

86; Boston 98, Miami 83; New York 114, Phoenix 109; Detroit 95, Toronto 76; Milwaukee 133, Dallas 99; New Orleans 102, New Jersey 92; Houston 108, Utah 99; Washington 110, Sacramento 107; Cleveland 104, Portland 98; and Oklahoma City 122, Golden State 121. □



Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum, right, dunks the ball as Los Angeles Clippers forward Brian Skinner defends during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Fight between Pacquiao and Hatton off for now

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Manny Pacquiao's refusal to accept terms already agreed to by his promoter has apparently scuttled the planned May 2 fight between him and British fighter Ricky Hatton. Promoters for both fighters said on Wednesday the fight was off, with little chance of it being revived.

"You never say never, but right now it's off," said Bob Arum, who promotes Pacquiao. "Hatton's shopping around for a new opponent now."

Arum said the original agreement was for the two fighters to split their shares 50-50, with Pacquiao having a \$12 million guarantee. That deal fell through when Pacquiao demanded the bigger

percentage, and a new agreement called for him to get 52 percent of the purse.

But Arum said he couldn't get Pacquiao to sign the new deal, and that Hatton's promoter, Richard Schaefer of Golden Boy Promotions, decided on Wednesday to cancel the ongoing preparations for the 140-pound bout.

Pacquiao was coming off a dominating win over Oscar De La Hoya and was generally considered the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world. Hatton was an attractive opponent because he would bring ticket and pay-per-view sales from England for the fight, which had been scheduled for the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas. □

A planned May 2 showdown between Britain's Ricky Hatton and Philippines star Manny Pacquiao, seen here in 2008, has been called off after the two fighters' camps could not agree on how to split the purse.

Photo by Bewel Samad



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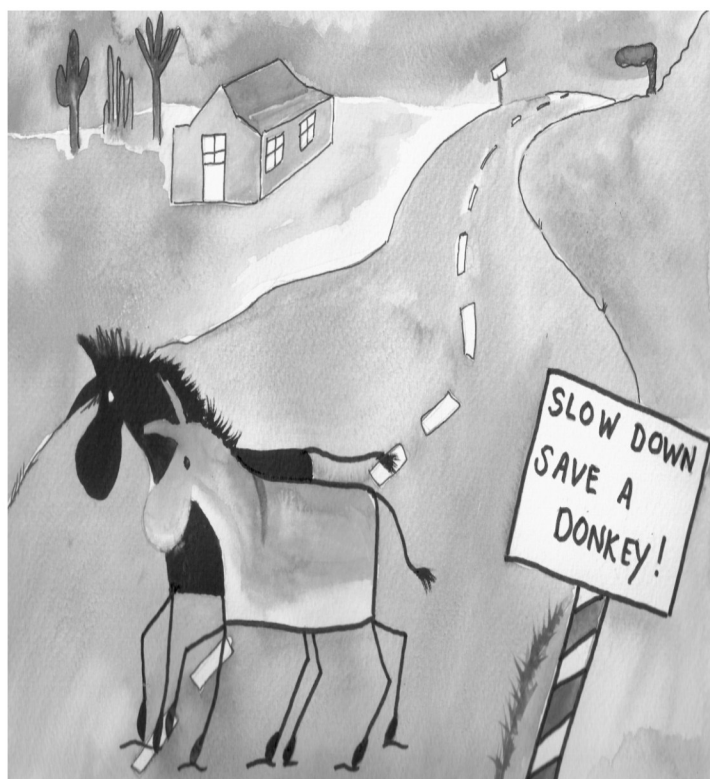
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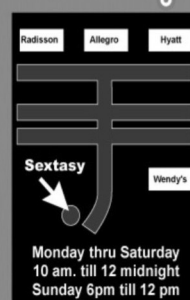


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Presidente Morales defiende nueva Constitución boliviana

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia (Reuters) - El presidente boliviano, Evo Morales, aseguró el jueves que la nueva Constitución socialista que será sometida a referendo el domingo garantiza la propiedad privada, ahuyentando fantasmas atizados por la oposición sobre que eliminaría ese derecho. Seguro de la victoria de su propuesta, Morales también advirtió a sus críticos que pondrá en vigencia la nueva carta magna a través de decretos para evitar que sea boicoteada en el Senado, controlado por sectores conservadores.

“Esta nueva Constitución Política del Estado Boliviano no sólo garantiza la propiedad privada, sino garantiza la propiedad estatal, la propiedad colectiva”, aseguró en un acto en la ciudad central de Cochabamba ante una multitud de campesinos indígenas, que tendrán un acceso privilegiado a los órganos de poder con la reforma constitucional.

Arropado por unas 25.000 personas que agitaban whiplas -la insignia de los movimientos indígenas andinos-, y banderas de Bolivia y del oficialista Movimiento al Socialismo, Morales prometió combatir a una oposición que calificó de



Una mujer camina cerca de una publicidad de campaña electoral en La Paz, 21 ene 2009. El presidente Evo Morales quemará el jueves sus últimos cartuchos para asegurarse la aprobación de una nueva Constitución socialista en un referendo el domingo, mientras que la oposición escenificará su rechazo con una demostración de fuerza en uno de sus baluartes. REUTERS/David Mercado (BOLIVIA)

“corrupta”.

“Voy a votar por el ‘Sí’ porque estoy de acuerdo con lo que dice (la nueva Constitución). Estoy de acuerdo con las autonomías. Creo que va a cambiar todo”, afirmó en una plaza de Cochabamba Vanesa Valencia,

una estudiante de 23 años, en relación al mayor poder que la carta magna otorgaría a los departamentos.

En tanto, en la fértil llanura en el oriente del país, la oposición se preparaba para mostrar su rechazo a una Constitución

que asegura atenta contra la propiedad privada con una concentración en la ciudad de Santa Cruz, que ha venido resistiendo violentamente en los últimos meses el proyecto de reforma.

Analistas creen que el apoyo

con el que cuenta Morales entre la mayoritaria comunidad aborígen boliviana, marginada durante décadas y en gran parte desperdigada en las tierras altas del occidente, será suficiente para la aprobación de la nueva Constitución.

Pero las heridas abiertas en el país entre los que la apoyan y la rechazan difícilmente cicatrizarán tras la votación, según expertos.

Fiel a su estilo confrontativo, Morales, de 49 años, ha venido acusando a opositores, que controlan varios distritos clave, de querer boicotear lo que ha denominado la “refundación” de Bolivia y que implica dar al Estado poderes casi absolutos sobre la economía. Con la nueva carta magna, el Gobierno prohíbe el latifundio, fortalece su control sobre los recursos naturales ya nacionalizados y limita la capacidad del capital privado para controlar sectores considerados estratégicos.

Además, la reforma permitiría a Morales presentarse a su reelección en unos comicios anticipados que podrían ser convocados en diciembre, así como renovar el Poder Legislativo para neutralizar el control de la oposición sobre el Senado. □



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